

*The Next Chapter in California
Water Conservation:
Evolving Public Policy, New Grant
Programs, Water Use Efficiency Master Plan,
and More*

Water Policy Task Force
Southern California Association of Governments
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Content of Presentation

- ♦ Orange County Water Use Efficiency Master Plan
 - Program shift
 - Market Transformation
- ♦ Grant Funding & Partnerships
- ♦ Evolving Public Policy: AB 2717



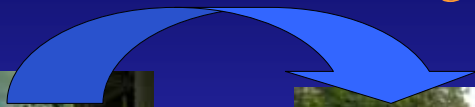
Water Use Efficiency Master Plan

- ♦ Goal: to set a clear path for water use efficiency program over the next five years
- ♦ 5-year Updates
- ♦ Programmatic Shift
- ♦ Theme: Transforming the market
 - From concept to standard

Encouraging a Market Transformation	
<u>Water Agencies</u>	<u>Manufacturers</u>
Research a concept	Prototype Widget
Evaluation	Products & more prototypes
Implementation	Many products
Standard	Common Performance



Shift In Focus From Indoor to Outdoor and Business Programs



What's Happening Indoors



- ♦ Gone are the days of low-flow showerheads
 - OC is better than 90% saturated with low-flow heads



- ♦ Ultra-Low-Flush Toilets
 - more 360,000 have been installed since 1992; saving more than 11,800 AFY
 - Shifting to High-Efficiency Toilets that are 20% more efficient than ULFTs

- ♦ Residential Clothes Washers
 - Standard to become effective 2007
 - Do we offer rebates for even more efficient machines?



What's Happening Outdoors

- ♦ Landscape water savings can be quantifiable and reliable
 - No longer just education
 - New Technologies:
 - SmarTimers and
 - sprinkler nozzles
 - New methods: Web reporting for Landscape Irrigation Budgets
 - Watershed partnerships



What's Happening Outdoors (Cont.)

- ♦ SmarTimers automatically adjust irrigation schedules without action by the homeowner
- ♦ The Landscape Performance Certification Program provides monthly Irrigation Performance Reports for dedicated landscape meters



- ♦ Irrigation management education must continue
- ♦ Beginning to research irrigation distribution uniformity savings potential



What's Happening for Business

- ♦ Business : Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII)
 - Plumbing fixture Rebates
 - Industrial Process Water Improvements



- ♦ The Save-Water-Save-A-Buck Program
 - Provides rebates for common plumbing fixtures used in the CII sector including toilets, urinals & cooling tower controllers



What's Happening for Business (Cont.)



- ♦ An Industrial Process Water Project was recently awarded Prop 50 funding targeting:
 - Food Processing, Textile, Metal Plating and Electronics
 - 48 Assessments leading to 12 process changes
 - Scheduled to begin early 2006
 - \$400K Metropolitan + \$400K Prop 50 + In-kind from MWDOC and wastewater agencies
- ♦ Research: efficient plumbing fixture Saturation Study in OC businesses and institutions to fine-tune program



New and Improved Grant Programs

- ♦ Improvements to Metropolitan's Conservation Credits Program approved in December
- ♦ Propositions 13 & 50 - crossover between water use efficiency and watershed management through the Residential Runoff Reduction Study
- ♦ Bureau of Reclamation
 - Field Services Program – RFP released in December
 - Water 2025
- ♦ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ♦ California Public Utilities Commission



Emerging Public Policy



- ♦ AB 2717 - Laird
- ♦ Legislative charge: California Urban Water Conservation Council to convene a stakeholder task force
- ♦ To evaluate and recommend proposals for improving the efficiency of water use in new and existing urban irrigated landscapes in California



To Examine & Make Recommendations



- ♦ The effectiveness of the existing Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
- ♦ Labeling requirements and performance standards for irrigation equipment
- ♦ Use and application of landscape irrigation budgets
- ♦ Standardized training and certification requirements for design, installation, operation, and maintenance of irrigated landscapes



To Examine & Make Recommendations (Cont.)

- ◆ Incentives and disincentives to encourage landscaping efficiency measures
- ◆ Measures for improving the water efficiency of existing irrigated landscapes; and
- ◆ Areas for further research and development regarding landscape water efficient plants, irrigation equipment, and monitoring of landscape water use



Task Force Recommendations



- ◆ The 42 recommendations and 76 actions were adopted through consensus and reflect the Landscape Task Force's commitment to water efficient urban landscapes
- ◆ Including changes in California law, revisions to the Model Ordinance, and amendments to the California Urban Water Conservation Council Best Management Practices



Example Recommendations

- ◆ Urban water suppliers (wholesale and retail) should adopt water conserving rate structures as defined by the Task Force
- ◆ Adopt performance standards for irrigation equipment
- ◆ Require local ordinances be at least as effective as the State Model Ordinance
- ◆ Promote the use of recycled water in urban landscapes
- ◆ Require Smart Controllers



Next Steps for AB 2717

- ◆ The Task Force submitted the final report to the California Legislature and Governor in December 2005
- ◆ Some recommendations will be sponsored in legislation in the next few years
- ◆ Water agencies, cities and counties will need to consider what will and will not work for their jurisdictions



In Closing

- ♦ Indoor programs have been successful
- ♦ Shift to outdoor and business oriented programs has begun; more complex than past programs but, still have significant savings potential
- ♦ Significant landscape oriented legislation is around the corner
- ♦ Market Transformation –
 - PROGRAMS promote STANDARDS

